

2004 CPG

COMPREHENSIVE
PROCUREMENT
GUIDELINES

Buy-Recycled Series

PARK & RECREATION PRODUCTS

Want to go the extra mile for your community? Buying recycled-content playground equipment and other recreational products is cost-effective, easy to do, and a good way to keep our outdoors green. The same goes for your community's beaches.

You can provide long-lasting protection for your sand dunes using plastic fencing made from recovered plastics.

To make it easier to buy recycled, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updates the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) every 2 years.

Through the CPG, EPA designates items that must contain recycled materials when purchased with appropriated federal funds by federal, state, and local agencies, or by government contractors. Several park and recreation products are among these items. EPA's

research shows that the items designated in the CPG are of high quality, widely available, and cost-competitive with virgin prod-

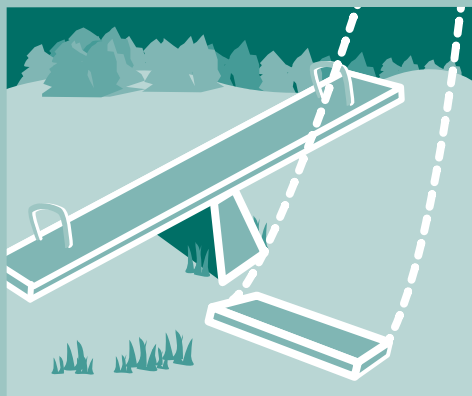
ucts. EPA also issues nonregulatory companion guidance—the Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN)—that recommends levels of recycled content for these items.

Why Buy Recycled?

Recycling is more than just dropping off your cans, bottles, and newspapers at the curb or at a local collection facility. Diverting recyclables from the waste stream is only the first of three steps in the recycling process. The second step occurs when companies use these recyclables to manufacture new products. The third step comes when you purchase products made from recovered materials. That's how we close the loop.

Buying recycled products results in many environmental benefits. It supports local recycling programs by creating markets for the collected materials that are processed and used to manufacture new products. This creates jobs and helps strengthen the economy; conserves natural resources; saves energy; and reduces solid waste, air and water pollutants, and greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

PARK & RECREATION



Buying recycled products...

- ...conserves natural resources
- ...saves energy
- ...reduces solid waste
- ...reduces air and water pollutants
- ...reduces greenhouse gases
- ...creates new jobs



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What is CPG?

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires procuring agencies to buy recycled-content products designated by EPA in the CPG. Issued in May 1995, the first CPG designated 19 new products (including playground surfaces and running tracks) and incorporated five previously designated items in eight product categories. The first CPG update (CPG II) was published in November 1997 and designated an additional 12 products, including plastic fencing. A second CPG update (CPG III) was published in January 2000 and designated an additional 18 products, including park benches, picnic tables, and playground equipment. The third CPG update (CPG IV) was published in April 2004, designating seven new products, but no new park and recreation products were designated.

Procuring agencies include all federal agencies, and any state or local government agencies or government contractors that use appropriated federal funds to purchase the designated items. If your agency spends more than \$10,000 per year on a product designated in the CPG, you are required to purchase it with the highest recycled-content level practicable. The CPG also applies to lease contracts covering designated items. Executive Order 13101 and the Federal Acquisition Regulation also call for an increase in the federal government's use of recycled-content and environmentally preferable products.

Once any new items are designated in a published CPG update, an agency has 1 year to develop an affirmative procurement program (or revise an existing one) to include these new items. In previous years, agencies have had to revise their affirmative procurement programs to incorporate buy-recycled requirements for items such as playground surfaces, running tracks, plastic fencing, park benches, picnic tables, and playground equipment. This effort might involve reviewing specifications for those products and eliminating provisions that pose barriers to procuring them with recycled content (such as aesthetic requirements unrelated to product performance). Since CPG IV designates no new park and recreation products, agencies are not required to revise this portion of their affirmative procurement program.

The CPG acknowledges that specific circumstances might arise that preclude the purchase of products made with recovered materials. Your agency may purchase designated items that do not contain recovered materials if it determines that: 1) the price of a given designated item made with recovered materials is unreasonably high, 2) there is inadequate competition (not enough sources of supply), 3) unusual and unreasonable delays would result from obtaining the item, or 4) the recycled-content item does not meet an agency's reasonable performance specifications.



How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Park & Recreation Products?

EPA issues purchasing guidance in RMANs, which are designed to make it as easy as possible to buy the designated items. The RMANs recommend recycled-content levels to look for when purchasing park and recreation products, as shown in the table below. Following the RMANs' recommended levels will help ensure your affirmative procurement program and standards meet the buy-recycled requirements. The RMANs also provide other purchasing guidance. Please refer to www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm for more information on individual products.

Rather than specifying just one level of recycled content, the RMANs recommend ranges that reflect actual market conditions. The recommendations are based on market research identifying recycled-content products that are commercially available, are competitively priced, and meet buyers' quality standards.

Access EPA's online recycled-content products database by going to www.epa.gov/cpg and selecting "Supplier Database." See the last section of this fact sheet for other helpful resources.

EPA's Recommended Content Levels for Park & Recreation Products

PARK & RECREATION PRODUCT ¹	MATERIAL	POSTCONSUMER RECOVERED CONTENT ²	TOTAL RECOVERED CONTENT ²
Park Benches & Picnic Tables:	Plastic ³	90-100%	100%
	Plastic Composites	50-100%	100%
	Aluminum	25%	—
	Concrete	—	15-40%
	Steel ⁴	16% 67%	25-30% 100%
Plastic Fencing for Specified Uses ⁵	Plastic	60-100%	90-100%
Playground Equipment	Plastic ³	90-100%	100%
	Plastic Composites	50-75%	95-100%
	Steel ⁴	16% 67%	25-30% 100%

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PARK & RECREATION PRODUCT ¹	MATERIAL	POSTCONSUMER RECOVERED CONTENT ²	TOTAL RECOVERED CONTENT ²
Playground Surfaces	Plastic or Rubber	90-100%	—
Running Tracks	Plastic or Rubber	90-100%	—

¹ EPA's recommendations do not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing these items manufactured from another material. They simply require that a procuring agency purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements. Federal agency installations of these products must comply with applicable state or local construction codes, as well as standards set by the Consumer Safety Commission and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

² The recommended recovered materials content levels are based on the dry weight of the raw materials, exclusive of any additives such as adhesives, binders, or coloring agents.

³ "Plastic" includes both single and mixed plastic resins. Park benches and picnic tables made with recovered plastic may also contain other recovered materials, such as sawdust, wood, or fiberglass. The percentage of these materials contained in the product would also count toward the recovered materials content level of the item.

⁴ The recommended recovered materials content level for steel in this table reflect the fact that the designated items can be made from steel manufactured from either a Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) or an Electric Arc Furnace (EAF). Steel from the BOF process contains 25-30% total recovered materials, of which 16% is postconsumer steel. Steel from the EAF process contains a total of 100% recovered steel, of which 67% is postconsumer.

⁵ Designation includes fencing containing recovered plastic for use in controlling snow or sand drifting and as a warning/safety barrier in construction or other applications.

How Can I Get More Information?



Information Available From EPA

This fact sheet and the following publications on buying recycled-content products can be accessed on the Internet.

- **EPA Amends Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG).** This fact sheet provides general information about the CPG and the development of affirmative procurement programs. See www.epa.gov/cpg/pdf/cpg-fs.pdf.

- **Federal Register (FR)** notices promulgating CPG I (60 FR 21370/EPA530-Z-95-006) and RMAN I (60 FR 21386/EPA530-Z-95-007), May 1, 1995. FR notices promulgating CPG II (62 FR 60961/EPA530-Z-97-009) and RMAN II (62 FR 60975/EPA530-Z-97-010), November 13, 1997. FR notices promulgating CPG III (65 FR 3070) and RMAN III (65 FR 3082), January 19, 2000. FR notices promulgating CPG IV (69 FR 24028) and RMAN IV (69 FR 24039), April 30, 2004. See www.epa.gov/cpg/backgrnd.htm.





Other Sources of Information

- **Buy Recycled Business Alliance.** The Alliance includes over 3,200 companies and organizations committed to increasing their use of recycled-content products and materials in their day-to-day operations. The Alliance offers educational materials, a quarterly newsletter, and product-specific guides. Public purchasing entities can join for free. For more information, contact the National Recycling Coalition, 1325 G Street, NW, Suite 1025, Washington, DC 20005-3104. Phone: 202 347-0450. Fax: 202 347-0449. Web site: <www.nrc-recycle.org/brba/index.htm>. E-mail: brbainfo@nrc-recycle.org.
- **U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).** GSA publishes various supply catalogs, guides, and schedules for recycled-content products available through the Federal Supply Service. For copies of the following documents and other publications, contact GSA, Centralized Mailing List Service (7CAFL), 4900 Hemphill Street, P.O. Box 6477, Fort Worth, TX 76115-9939. Phone: 817 334-5215. Fax: 817 334-5527. You can also access GSA Advantage!, GSA's Internet-based online ordering system, to order any GSA product at <www.gsaadvantage.gov>.
 - **Park and Outdoor Recreational Equipment, Federal Supply Schedule Group 78, Part 1, Schedule C, Classes 7830.** Lists a variety of park and recreation products available for purchase.
 - **Environmental Products Guide.** This guide is designed to help procurement officials identify environmentally preferable products and services. It contains nearly 3,000 items, including many recycled-content products.
- **National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO):** <www.naspo.org> . NASPO's Internet-based Database of Recycled Commodities (DRC) includes information from states on their recycled product procurement. Data include product distributors, manufacturers, brand names, recycled and post-consumer content, ENERGY STAR® rating, units purchased, unit of measurement, unit price, and type of procurement. The database was developed and is maintained by the Florida Department of Management Services. To use the database, visit <www.state.fl.us/bpsr/drc_notice.html>.
- **Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing Executive Order 13101.** This guide provides detailed information on the requirements of Executive Order 13101 and the benefits of achieving compliance. Updated in February 2001, it is available from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive. Phone: 202 564-1297. Fax: 202 564-1393. Web site: <www.ofee.gov>. Email: task_force@ofee.gov. An electronic version of the document can be accessed at <www.ofee.gov/co/greening.pdf>.
- **Official Recycled Products Guide.** This directory lists more than 5,000 manufacturers and distributors of recycled-content products. Contact: Recycling Data Management Corporation, P.O. Box 577, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Phone: 800 267-0707. Fax: 877 471-3258.
- **Recycled Plastic Products Source Book.** This booklet lists more than 1,400 plastic products from approximately 300 manufacturers. For more information, contact the American Plastics Council (APC), 1300 Wilson Blvd., 13th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209. Phone: 800 2-HELP-90. Outside of U.S.: 703 253-0710. Web site: <www.americanplasticscouncil.org>.



Internet Sites—Product Information

- **Recycling Data Network Information Services:** <www.recyclingdata.com/contents.htm>. This commercial Web site provides access, on a subscription basis, to a recycled-content products database of over 4,500 listings in 700 product classifications. It also provides a reference library and a newsletter. Managed by the publisher of the Official Recycled Products Guide, the product database is considered to be the largest of its kind.

Internet Sites—Government

- **The Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines:** <www.epa.gov/cpg>. This site describes EPA's effort to facilitate the procurement of products containing recovered materials, including information on CPG, RMANs, and an online database of manufacturers and suppliers of designated items.
- **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP):** <www.epa.gov/epp>. EPA's EPP program encourages and assists federal agencies in purchasing environ-



mentally preferable products and services. The site explains EPA's proposed guiding principles for including environmental performance in purchasing decision-making, and posts case studies of successful pilot projects in both the public and private sectors.

- **Federal Trade Commission:** <www.ftc.gov/bcp/grnrule/guides980427.htm>. The Federal Trade Commission issued Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims in May 1998.
- **Jobs Through Recycling:** <www.epa.gov/jtr>. EPA's Jobs Through Recycling program stimulates economic growth and recycling market development by assisting businesses and supporting a network of state and regional recycling contacts. This Web site provides information on financing and technical assistance for recycling businesses, as well as other market development tools.
- **King County Recycled Product Procurement Program:** <www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/index.htm>. This site describes the tools and techniques developed by King County, Washington, agencies for purchasing recycled products.
- **California Recycled-Content Product Database:** <www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RCP>. This site contains information on why to buy recycled-content products, how to procure them, and provides access to a database with information on products, as well as manufacturers, distributors, reproducers, mills, and converters across the country who procure or produce these products.
- **Municipal Solid Waste:** <www.epa.gov/msw>. This site includes information on recycling, source reduction, and reuse. Contains state municipal solid waste data and the latest facts and figures on waste generation and disposal.
- **WasteWise:** <www.epa.gov/wastewise>. WasteWise is a free, voluntary EPA program through which organizations eliminate costly municipal solid waste, benefitting their bottom line and the environment. The program provides hands-on assistance to members to help them purchase or manufacture recycled-content products, prevent waste, and recycle solid waste materials.

